

Members

Sen. Robert Jackman, Chair
Sen. Thomas Weatherwax
Sen. Phil Boots
Sen. James Lewis
Sen. Robert Deig
Sen. Richard Young
Rep. David Cheatham, Vice-Chair
Rep. Steven Stemler
Rep. Peggy Welch
Rep. William Friend
Rep. Jack Lutz
Rep. Richard Dodge



WATER RESOURCES STUDY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 2-5-25-2

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 2, 2007
Meeting Time: 10:00 a.m.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Sen. Robert Jackman, Chair; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax; Sen. Phil Boots; Sen. Robert Deig; Sen. Richard Young; Rep. David Cheatham, Vice-Chair; Rep. Steven Stemler; Rep. Peggy Welch; Rep. William Friend; Rep. Jack Lutz.

Members Absent: Sen. James Lewis; Rep. Richard Dodge.

Call to Order. Sen. Jackman, Chair of the committee, called the meeting to order. After an introduction of committee members, Sen. Jackman asked the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide the committee with an overview of the work of the Water Shortage Task Force.

Water Shortage Task Force. Ron McAhron, DNR Deputy Director, provided the committee with an overview of the work of the task force. (See Exhibit I.) Mr. McAhron also provided the committee with a copy of a model ordinance relating to water shortages that was forwarded to local units. (See Exhibit 2.)

Great Lakes Compact. Kari Evans, Policy Director for the Environment and Natural Resources, Office of the Governor, provided the committee with an update on the progress of discussions pertaining to the Great Lakes Compact. (See Exhibit 3.)

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Rep. Welch asked about complaints pertaining to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) allowing additional pollution in Lake Michigan. Ms. Evans explained that the BP plant in Whiting was expanding in order to be able to refine crude oil from Canada. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the facility was modified in order to allow for an increase in the discharge into the lake of total suspended solids. The permit meets state and federal standards. The federal Environmental Protection Agency approved the decision before it was made by the state.

The Effects of Climate on Water Resources. Dr. Dev Niyogi, Indiana State Climatologist, provided the committee with an overview of the impact of the climate on the future water resources of the state. (See Exhibit 4.) Dr. Niyogi also provided the committee with handouts pertaining to drought indicators and triggers and the first issue of a newsletter from the Office of the State Climatologist. (See Exhibits 5 and 6.)

Other Business. Glenn Pratt, Sierra Club, thanked the legislators who worked on SB 369 and expressed the need to address HB 1738.

Rep. Welch suggested either expanding the role of the Water Shortage Task Force or creating another task force to address water usage in general and not just during times of drought.

Ms. Evans suggested that representatives from state agencies could share with the committee how the agencies currently manage or oversee water resources.

Sen. Young suggested that the existing task force not be overburdened with additional topics. He asked the DNR to provide the committee with information at the next meeting pertaining to whether other states have comprehensive water usage plans.

Rep. Welch indicated that she would be interested in the implementation language of the Great Lakes Compact.

Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 9, at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment. The committee adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.